

Testimony of Maggie Namaskara

My name is Maggie Namaskara and I have worked at Reserve Square Market for the last nine years as a full-time employee. Currently, I work as a cashier but have held other positions at the store. About 4 years ago my co-workers and I chose to make our working conditions better so we organized with UFCW Local 880. Now, thanks to our efforts, we have a contract with our employer which guarantees our wages, benefits and working conditions. Something we all value and don't take for granted.

I fear the effects of a Wal-Mart moving into our city would be highly negative. My concerns range from my hours being cut due to lack of business to the effect a Wal-Mart would have on the good paying retail jobs our city has. I don't want to have to drop my standards to those of a Wal-Mart worker who has to co-pay for benefits and rely on tax subsidies from the rest of us.

Wal-Mart should be a better employer and set higher standards for itself and its employees.